THE
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DAN SMOOT

"THEY HAVE DEFEATED THE UNITED STATES"

Have Americans lost their capacity for decent outrage about outrageous events?

There was little public disapproval when President Nixon's State Department conferred quasi-ambassadorial status on two new-left, pro-communist, anarchists (both under federal criminal indictment). Yet, this is a story that should have the nation seething with indignation, burning with shame.

On July 3, 1969, the communist government of North Vietnam announced in Hanoi that three American prisoners would be released, "as a humanitarian gesture in observance of the United States Independence Day."(1)

On July 4, David Dellinger received a telegram from Hanoi officials, saying that a representative of "the American peace movement" must go to Paris for consultation with North Vietnamese representatives there, and that a delegation of "the American peace movement" must later go to Hanoi to pick up the three American prisoners and return them to the United States.(2)

The American peace movement is communist dialectics for American subversives who want a communist victory in Vietnam.

David Dellinger (a U.S.-hating, pro-Castroite, new-leftist) is chairman of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam (MOBES) — a coalition of some 250 "American peace movement" groups of hippies, Negro militants, and Vietcong sympathizers. Dellinger was an organizer of the communist-led attack on the Pentagon in the fall of 1967. He and his MOBES were also in the forefront of the mobs that tried to tear Chicago apart during the Democrat National Convention of 1968.

Under indictment by a federal grand jury for his 1968 Chicago activities, Dellinger is out on bail pending trial. His lawyer is the infamous William H. Kunstler of New York, who has represented

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dozens of subversive lawbreakers in the past decade.

Defendants in pending federal criminal cases, even though free on bail, may not travel outside their home districts without special permission. Nixon officials arranged such permission for Dellinger. The U. S. Attorney and federal judge Julius J. Hoffman in Chicago agreed to what Kunstler called an "unusual compromise." Travel restrictions against Dellinger were lifted.[2]

On July 7, Dellinger, acting in the capacity of a representative of the people of the United States, left for Paris to negotiate with North Vietnamese communist officials.

Eight days later, attorney Kunstler asked Judge Hoffman to give Rennard C. Davis a three-week release from travel restrictions so that Davis could go to Paris, get final instructions from the communists, and then proceed to Hanoi to accept release of American prisoners.[3]

Rennard C. Davis is a leader of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) whose officials generally admit being communists, and whose chief aim is to destroy the United States by force and violence. Davis (like Dellinger) is under federal indictment for conspiracy to incite riots in Chicago last year.[3]

The assistant U.S. Attorney in Chicago said that releasing Davis from travel restrictions would permit him to go to a foreign country where the U.S. government would have no way to get him back for trial if he decided not to return. But, he said, the U.S. Attorney's office would make no objection.[3]

Judge Hoffman had yielded to State Department and Justice Department wheedling a week before when letting Dellinger go to Paris, but he refused to let Davis go. He said:

"I had grave misgivings of letting Dellinger go to Paris last week. It puts the court in the position of entering foreign relations.

"Now I'm asked to permit Davis to head his delegation to travel to an enemy country for the purpose of escorting back three American prisoners of war. I think it would be improper for the court to grant him permission for such a purpose; and, therefore, I deny the request."[3]

Attorney Kunstler immediately asked Judge Otto Kerner, U.S. Court of Appeals, for an emergency, closed-session hearing. After Justice Department lawyers gave assurance that the State Department wanted Davis released from travel restrictions, Judge Kerner overturned the decision of Judge Hoffman.

Rennard Davis left that night, July 15, for Hanoi, via Paris — taking six other representatives of "the American peace movement" with him as a "delegation," in compliance with communist instructions.[1,3]

On August 4, 1969, three American prisoners were released to Davis's seven-man "peace delegation" in Hanoi. On August 5, they arrived in Laos, aboard an International Control Commission plane. A U. S. military plane was waiting there to bring them back home. After a brief conference with U.S. diplomatic officials, the "peace delegation" said the released men would return to the U.S. by commercial plane, because Hanoi would be displeased if they traveled on a U.S. military aircraft.[1]

Pale, gaunt, badly undernourished, sick, and nervous, the three prisoners said they had received adequate food and medical attention, that they had not been indoctrinated, and that they got some exercise in prison camp when they "were allowed to sweep the grounds." They refused to elaborate, fearing what might happen to other American servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam.[1]

Four days later (August 9), U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers cited the physical condition of the three released Americans as proof that North Vietnamese communists are "as inhumane as you can be" in the treatment of American prisoners.[4]

The Vietcong and North Vietnamese will not exchange prisoners, or even give us any information on the identity and number of Americans they have in prison. The Pentagon calls this refusal to provide a prisoner list an "inhumane and clear violation of the Geneva Convention."[7]

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The American communist sympathizers who constituted the "peace delegation" to Hanoi are just as inhumane as their communist idols are. Ten days after he had returned to the United States, Rennard Davis (SDS head of the "peace delegation") was still holding some 50 cards or letters which American prisoners in Vietnam had asked him to forward to their anxious relatives back home.[7]

James Johnson (a member of David Dellinger's pro-communist MOBES) was in Rennard Davis's seven-man "peace delegation" to Hanoi. Upon his return to the United States, Johnson was lyrical with happiness about what he had seen in North Vietnam. Speaking of the people there, he said:

"I've never seen such spirit anywhere. I feel they have defeated the United States."[5]

Johnson was right. North Vietnam, a backward, tenth-rate communist nation has defeated the United States, despite the magnificent valor, high morale, and awful sacrifices of our fighting men. They have defeated us because we do not have — and for a long time have not had — top political leadership worthy of respect.

We elect and re-elect such leadership because, apparently, we no longer respect ourselves. If the general American public did have proper respect for itself, for our nation, and for the glorious traditions of our Republic, there would be such deep and wide indignation in this country that Richard Nixon would not have dared permit the shameful spectacle the world has just witnessed.

It is a violation of federal law and of a basic constitutional principle for private American citizens to engage in policy negotiations with foreign powers.[6] The Nixon State Department not only permitted but arranged for this violation of law and of constitutional principle.

Our government has no right to send Americans to fight foreign wars for the benefit of other people. The President has no valid authority to send American troops into combat (except in direct defense of their own country, in a time of great emergency), without a constitutional declaration of war by Congress. Once American troops are ordered to fight, however (whether constitutionally or not), the government betrays them and the country by not giving them total support to win a military victory as quickly as possible. When we fight a protracted, stalemate war with a minor power, we so discredit ourselves that we invite insolent aggressions against us, by similar powers all over the earth. This is especially and inevitably the case when the war we refuse to win (like the Korean and Vietnam wars) is with a communist puppet nation. When we withdraw from a war with communists, on armistice terms which they dictate (as Eisenhower did in Korea, and as Nixon obviously plans to do in Vietnam), we jeopardize the vital security of our nation, because we invite communist provocations and attacks. Note, for example, communist North Korea's many aggressions against us since 1953 — the two most publicized of which were the pirating of the *Pueblo* in 1968, and the shooting down of a U.S. Navy plane in 1969.

In short, Americans with pride in their country, and concern for its security, should have been outraged from the beginning about the Vietnam war. Doubtless, many were; but their indignation made no visible imprint on public opinion or on governmental policy. The Americans who have vigorously and effectively protested the conduct of the Vietnam war are those who hate their own country and want communists to win.

Because of the aid and comfort they have given the communist enemy, these treasonable Americans have the blood of American servicemen on their hands. The Nixon administration's rationalization for using them as ambassadors to the enemy is that anything is justified if it will rescue American servicemen from vile communist prison camps. But in thus rescuing three, Nixon has doomed countless others to die. The release of three prisoners was not a "humanitarian gesture." It was a propaganda trick to strengthen "the American peace movement," which has been an invaluable ally of the communists, inspiring them to persist, undermining the American will to win. Many American servicemen now dead would be alive but for the help and encouragement "the

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American peace movement" has given the communists. By conferring quasi-ambassadorial status on leaders of this movement, Nixon has further convinced the enemy that victory will be given him, if he just hangs on a while longer and kills several thousand more Americans.

All decent Americans are gravely concerned about every one of our servicemen in communist prison camps. But instead of paying such frightful ransom to get *three* of them back home, why not rescue *all* of them and stop further killing and capturing of Americans? That could be done if President Nixon would let our armed forces win a military victory. A victory would cost us less in men and money than the surrender which Nixon is planning.

In 1967, North Vietnamese communists released three American prisoners, and released three more in 1968, under the same circumstances and conditions as in the August, 1969, release.[1,2] Communists called the 1967 and 1968 releases "humanitarian gestures." President Johnson accepted that propaganda lie, and permitted communist sympathizers to negotiate the releases.

In short, Nixon is merely following Johnson's lead; but there are factors which make Nixon's behavior even more reprehensible than Johnson's.

Nixon did promise a change: waxing eloquent about restoring respect for our country; protecting her against all enemies, domestic and foreign; supporting her fighting men.

President Johnson permitted communist sympathizers to conduct negotiations with the communist enemy. President Nixon did more than that: he actively intervened to free them from the jurisdiction of a federal court so that they could travel abroad for negotiations with the enemy. Thus, Nixon went further than Johnson did, in conferring respectability and official approval on treacherous subversives.

* * *

FROM A SOLDIER IN VIETNAM

Here is the full, verbatim text of a letter we have just received from an American infantryman (PFC) in Vietnam:

"I would like to thank you very much for the free subscription. I assure you that Dan's thoughts will be studied by me in detail this coming year. I don't know who sponsors this subscription, but whoever does sure has a friend in me.

"If only more GI's knew what Dan knows about this war, they would almost quit for lack of support from the home folks.

"This latest Nixon trick of de-escalating the war is just putting that much more of a load on the rest of us. By taking a few of us out, the death rate is going to get much higher for those of us who are left here. Last week with just the first pullout gone, three times as many South Vietnamese soldiers lost their lives.

"The amount of money we are spending here in so many useless ways could save the taxpayers a lot of money. Either Nixon should use all of us for a complete victory or bring us all home.

"Thanks again for the subscription."

FOOTNOTES

(1) *New York Times*, Aug. 6, 1969, p. C8
(2) *New York Times*, July 9, 1969, p. C5
(3) *Chicago Tribune*, July 16, 1969, p. 6
(4) New York Times News Service, Aug. 9, 1969
(5) Associated Press, Aug. 8, 1969
(6) *Dallas Morning News*, July 10, 1969, p. D2
(7) *Dallas Morning News*, Aug. 14, 1969, p. A3

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